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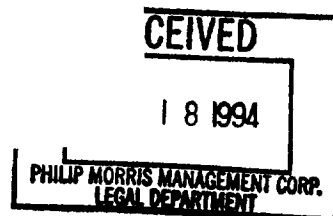
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I have just been informed by our Norwegian associates that a further official action has issued to which a response must be filed by 15 April 1994. The action is generally favourable. Of the 15 claims pending, claims 1-14 are allowable, but claim 15 is regarded as being obscure. The claim reads as follows:

'An article according to any preceding claim, characterised in that the control means comprises means for selecting one of said pre-measured charges and means for applying a pulse of electrical energy to the heating means to heat the selected charges when the consumer pass at the article.'

The reason for the obscurity objection is that the examiner does not consider it 'evident what the control device of the selective heating of charges consists of'. The examiner has asked that the claim be deleted. I have to say that I do not see why the claim is obscure. I am sure that we could re-word it to overcome the examiner's objections. However, you may feel that it is not worth arguing about the claim.

Please let me know if you would like me to delete the claim or to argue the objections. I look forward to receiving your instructions in good time before the 15 April 1994 deadline.

Yours sincerely

PATRICK A.D. LLOYD

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